VI.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(4) THE MADRAS SILKWORM SEED (PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) BILL, 1956 (L.C. BILL NO. 5 OF 1956).

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

"That the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill [a], 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Council, be taken into consideration."

The Silk industry is one of the important cottage industries in the Madras State and the Second World War has not only given a greater prominence but also has lent a great fillip to the industry. In order to develop the industry on right lines, it is necessary to improve the quality and quantity of indigenous raw silk and to achieve this, it must be ensured that disease-free layings of the silkworm eggs are used to produce the cocoons. Diseased worms have the habit of completely ruining even good cocoons produced in the same establishment or even in the neighbourhood. It is therefore necessary to exercise proper control over matters like rearing and utilization of disease-free silkworm seeds.

There has been keen competition between the Cottage Charka Reeling Industry and the Filature Silk Industry. The charka reelers are able to offer higher prices for cocoons and even after paying such prices, they produce silk at a cheaper rate than the filatures mainly because there are overheads, etc., for them. Consequently, the cost of production of filature silk exceeds the market price of charka silk, with the result that the filatures are not able to work economically. For the successful working of the Silk industry, it is therefore necessary to adopt measures for the regulated supplies of disease-free cocoons at rates reasonable to both the filatures and charka reelers and for affording adequate marketing facilities to the ryots for the sale of cocoons.

In the above circumstances it is proposed to undertake legislation for the licensing of the production, etc., of silkworm seeds, regulation of the rearing of silkworms from the silkworm seeds, control of cocoon markets and the licensing of reeling establishments. It is also proposed to take power to fix the prices of cocoons.

This Bill is intended to achieve the above objects. The financial implications of the Bill are explained in the Financial Memorandum, copies of which have been laid on the table of the House.

The Silk industry in this State is at present mainly concentrated in the Kollegal area. This area may go over to Mysore. The proposed legislation has been based generally on the lines of the Mysore Silk Worm Seed (Control of Distribution) Act, 1952, so that it would be easier for the Mysore Government to apply its own Act on the transfer of the Kollegal area to Mysore.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 596–602 infra.

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Even after the merger of the Kollegal taluk with Mysore State, sericultural activities will be extensively practised in Hosur taluk of Salem district and Coonoor in the Nilgiris district. Large-scale expansion of sericultural activities are also contemplated in Salem, Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli districts. It is necessary that we should proceed with the proposed legislation as a number of schemes for the expansion of sericultural activities in areas other than Kollegal which will be transferred to Mysore, are pending.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved—

"That the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Council, be taken into consideration."

* Sri S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I desire to know whether the sanction of the President has been obtained for introducing this Bill in this House. Article 301 of the Constitution says—

"Subject to the other provisions of this Part, trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free."

Article 304 (*b*) of the Constitution also says—

"impose such reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that State as may be required in the public interest."

As such, I feel that the sanction of the President for the introduction of a Bill of this sort is necessary as it seeks to impose restrictions on the freedom of trade and commerce.

Now coming to the provisions of this Bill itself, I wholeheartedly welcome the Bill. All persons who are interested in the Sericulture industry will have nothing but praise for the objects of the Bill. The Bill, in general, seeks to promote the silk industry by ensuring that disease-free layings of the silkworm eggs are used to produce the cocoons. For this purpose control and restriction are going to be imposed over rearing and utilization of disease-free silkworm seeds. Though the object of the Bill is laudable, the working of it has got to be watched with great interest and vigilance because silkworm seeds of quality should be made available in sufficient quantities. Otherwise, the Silk industry will suffer
11-40 a.m. and the object of the Bill will be defeated. I feel, Sir, that periodical assessment of the working of the Act is very much essential. If silkworm seeds are not supplied in adequate quantites in time, all the mulberry leaves will become over-ripe and the consequent result will be very ruinous to the industry. In Japan this industry is being developed through co-operative societies and I consider it would be better if this were to be left to the co-operative field. It may not be out of place to recall to memory here the various

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difficulties and disabilities experienced by the people when Controls over foodgrains were being administered by the people when any sort of control is being ushered. I hope that the Government will pay extra attention in administering the provisions of this measure and they will have to watch with very great interest and vigilance to see that silkworm seeds are made available adequately. With these few words, I welcome the Bill.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir we have modelled this Bill on the Mysore Act. The hon. Member who just now spoke will have the advantage of functioning in the Mysore Legislature and the administration of the Act, as far as Kollegal is concerned, will be in charge of the Mysore Government. The Mysore Government have experience of the working of this Act. I am sure their experience will be taken advantage to remove all those difficulties pointed out by the hon. Member. As far as the Madras State is concerned, we are just developing this Silk Industry and it is only for the purpose of the proper development of the industry this Bill has been brought forward. As far as we are concerned, we will also be helped and aided by the experience which has been gained by the Mysore Government in the working of a similar Act there. We will always see that the provisions of this legislation are worked properly for the proper development of the silk industry. If anything should stand in the way of the proper development of the industry, certainly we will see that the provisions of this Bill are properly amended. We feel that this legislation will be helpful for the proper development of the silk industry in our State even after the Reorganization of States.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has raised the point that the President's consent has not been obtained for introducing the Bill in the Legislature. The Hon. Minister has not referred to it in his reply.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That will also be considered. If the President's consent is necessary we will certainly get it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

"That the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Council, be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2 to 19, clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I move—

"That the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1956 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Council, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

"That the Madras Silkworm Seed (Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1955 (L.C. Bill No. 5 of 1956), as passed by the Legislative Council, be passed."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

11-45 a.m. MR. SPEAKER : The House will now adjourn and meet again on Tuesday, 23rd October 1956 at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned.

VIII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF HOUSE.

162. *List of Bills passed by the Madras Legislature in August 1956 and assented to by the Governor.*

163. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2285, Home, dated 11th August 1956, amending rule 291 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, regarding the inspection of public service vehicles. [Laid on the table of the House under section 133 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Central Act IV of 1939).]*

164. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 2378, Home, dated 23rd August 1956, inserting new rule 393-AA in the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, regarding the grant of permission by the Transport Authority or Registering Authority for illuminated advertisements on motor vehicles. [Laid on the table of the House under section 133 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Central Act IV of 1939).]*

165. *Notification issued under the Explanation I to section 3 (2) (ii) of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, with G.O. No. 2521, Revenue, dated 23rd June 1956, regarding classification of cotton cloth as fine or superfine.*

166. *White Paper on Local Administration.*